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**Subject:** Flint Readout 05/25/16

Gov. Rick Snyder's legal tab \$6,500 per day

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 05/25/16 12:05 AM

Bills for an outside legal firm to represent Gov. Rick Snyder in civil lawsuits related to the Flint drinking water crisis are costing taxpayers close to \$6,500 a day, and Snyder spent almost the entire \$400,000 allocated for the legal contract in February and March alone, records show. Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker of Detroit, hired to represent Snyder in connection with a raft of Flint civil lawsuits in which he is named as a defendant, billed the state \$343,702 between Feb. 8, when the firm started work, and March 31, according to records obtained by the Free Press under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act.

### Taxpayers paying more than \$6K a day for Gov. Snyder's legal fees

By Allie Gross, Detroit Metro Times 05/25/16 12:05 PM

Nearly \$6,500 a day in taxpayer dollars are going to a legal firm representing Gov. Rick Snyder in civil lawsuits surrounding the Flint water crisis, reports the Detroit Free Press's Paul Egan. According to Egan, this high daily fee was calculated based on the fact that the Governor spent nearly \$400,000 — the max amount promised in the contract with the firm — in just February and March.

### Last Flint fire station to end water supply distribution on Thursday

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 05/25/16 5:02 PM

The last of the Flint fire departments will stop distributing water at noon on Thursday. Flint Fire Station Three, located at 1525 Martin Luther King Avenue, will stop distributing bottled water, water filters, replacement cartridges and at-home water testing kits at noon on Thursday, May 26, according to a news release from the Joint Information Center. People in need of water supplies are urged to visit one of the five Community Water Resource sites that have opened across the city. People who are homebound and do not have access should call United Way 211 to schedule a rapid response delivery, according to the release.

### General Motors to add light duty truck production in Flint in 2017

By Dominic Adams, MLIVE 05/25/16 4:17 PM

General Motors will add production of its Chevrolet Silverado 1500 crew cab at the Flint Assembly plant beginning in 2017. The light duty truck is currently produced in Mexico and United Auto Workers Local 598 Shop Chairman Eric Welter said the addition is because truck buyers want a light duty, American-made truck. "This was just a need to satisfy their customers," he said. "We're having a hard time getting the four-door."

### Flint mural features President Obama and 'Little Miss Flint'

By Gillian Cruce, Click on Detroit 05/25/16 1:38 PM

A new mural features President Barack Obama and "Little Miss Flint" at the Union Printing

Building. Amariyanna "Mari" Copeny invited the president to visit Flint earlier in May during the city's water crisis. Kevin "Scraps" Burdick was invited to paint the mural by the director of the Gallery on Go project, Sandra Branch. Another portion of the mural will portray a superhero helping clean up the crisis and fight crime.

#### Mural with President Obama, Little Miss Flint part of community art project

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 05/25/16 11:11 AM

Dark spray paint clung to Amariyanna Copeny's slim fingers as she gazed at a mural of herself at the intersection of Saginaw and Harriet streets in Flint. She was joined in the mural by President Barack Obama, whom she met on May 4 after the Commander-in-Chief responded to her letter on the Flint water crisis and visited the city to get a first-hand look at the situation.

#### Mural features Obama, girl who asked him to visit Flint

By AP for Detroit News 05/25/16 8:26 AM

A new mural features President Barack Obama and the girl who invited him to visit Flint amid the city's crisis with lead-tainted water. Obama visited Flint on May 4 and met with Amariyanna "Mari" Copeny, an 8-year-old activist known as "Little Miss Flint." On Tuesday, The Flint Journal reports spray paint clung to Amariyanna's fingers as she gazed at the mural.

#### Prom Season in Flint: How the City Celebrates in a Time of Crisis

By Josh Sanburn, TIME 05/24/16

There's the Flint, Mich., most Americans have seen over the last few months. Photos of residents holding up bottles of rust-colored water. Mothers visibly panicked about lead-poisoned children. Protesters wanting those responsible sent to prison. But there's also the Flint only its residents see. The one where life moves on because it has to. The one where people still find reasons to celebrate despite the fact that they can't drink the water. The one where high school teenagers put on tuxes and tiaras and drive convertibles and dance and stay out until 3 a.m. Because it's May in Flint, and that means it's prom season.

## **Lead and Health**

#### Lead in Flint may have caused increase in miscarriages

By Mark Sumner, Daily Kos 05/24/16 12:16 PM

The focus on the lead crisis in Flint has chiefly centered on the long-term effects of lead on developing minds. But lead does more than affect the ability to reason. It's effects are widespread. One effect on fetuses is relatively straight forward, it's to terminate a pregnancy. Did this happen in Flint? The answer seems to be—we don't know for sure. But yes, it's likely that miscarriages occurred in Flint because of high lead levels.

#### What government owes Flint's poisoned immigrant community

Bridge Magazine for MLIVE 05/24/16 10:12 AM

Yaquelin Vargas knew last year she needed to stay hydrated while pregnant. But the tap water at her home on Flint's east side made her ill. "Keep drinking it," she remembered her doctor telling her. "It will help the baby." It was Oct. 1 last year when Flint residents were told to stop drinking the city's water, after the state belatedly confirmed it was poisoned by lead leaching from pipes into the water supply. News reports and government directives rolled out over the weeks and months that followed. But for a variety of reasons, Vargas and her father, Sergio, said they did not become aware of the threat until January, only a few weeks before Yaquelin Vargas's infant daughter, Lydia, would be diagnosed with lead poisoning.

#### Did Flint's water crisis lead to more miscarriages?

By Kate Wells, Michigan Radio 05/24/16 [radio clip]

Studies suggest even low levels of lead exposure can hurt a fetus' development in the womb. And for months now, the state health department has been looking into whether the Flint water crisis caused problems with pregnancies. Meanwhile, researchers at Hurley Medical Center are investigating whether the lead in the water increased the number of miscarriages. But it turns out that trying to track miscarriages is really tough.

#### Council balks at plan to add fees for replacing water lines in Flint

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 05/25/16 5:04 PM

Mayor Karen Weaver says the city will move forward with the Fast Start program replacing water lines in Flint despite pushback from Flint City Council regarding a proposal to add \$140 in

pre-and post-inspection fees. A special meeting was called today to address questions that council members have about the program, which has replaced water lines at 33 homes in the city under a state contract with Rowe Engineering.

#### Fast Start plan to replace Flint water pipes stuck in neutral

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 05/24/16 7:10 AM

Work on replacing lead service lines for Flint homes has been halted until city officials complete the process to secure bids for infrastructure replacement. Flint City Administrator, Sylvester Jones said they are about 30 days from finishing the request for proposal process before contractors can submit bids to continue Flint Mayor Karen Weaver's Fast Start program.

#### Conyers leads 8 Dems in push for \$35B water trust fund

By Keith Laing, Detroit News 05/24/16 4:54 PM

Eight congressional Democrats, led by Rep. John Conyers of Detroit, are pushing to spend \$35 billion per year on water infrastructure improvements in the wake of Flint's lead contamination crisis. The proposed Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability Act would "create a trust fund called the WATER Fund to support our drinking water and clean water infrastructure," according to Conyers' office.

#### Rep. John Conyers proposes water fund in wake of Flint crisis

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 05/24/16 3:15 PM

U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Detroit, is proposing creating a multibillion-dollar fund to pay for repairing water infrastructure around the country -- and replacing lead service lines like those found in Flint and elsewhere -- by forcing American companies to pay taxes in the U.S. on overseas profits. Conyers said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated nearly \$700 billion is needed to address drinking water and wastewater system needs over the next two decades and his Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act would provide that funding.

## **Opinions**

Don't do this: learning from the Flint water crisis

By Daniel Rayzel, Michigan Radio 05/24/16

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder promoted his business skills when first running for office, but those skills are now being questioned as the Flint water crisis continues to be a government nightmare. Grand Valley State University is taking the opportunity to learn from the mistakes made by the Snyder administration. Marie McKendall is a business professor at GVSU who will be using the Flint water crisis as a case study in her business ethics class this fall.

FLINT WATER CRISIS: The story that hasn't been told, 7 Action News investigates

By WXYZ ABC 7 Detroit 05/23/16 11:33 PM [video clip]

We are exposing the hidden truth behind the Flint Water Crisis. A man made disaster that began with misleading statements about the cost of clean water. Flint's former mayor and others tell us they made a choice to support switching off Detroit's system to save money, but citizens tell another story. We're investigating what really happened and who failed to keep citizens health and safety a top priority. We're also asking how this all could have been avoided to begin with.

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